Amendment dated April 7, 2009

Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2008

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 4-12, 15-18, 37 and 41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are amended, and claims 1-3, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 39 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance in due course are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

## I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 17, 18, 37 and 41 are allowed, and that claims 4-12, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is noted that claims 15 and 16 depend from allowed independent claim 41, and thus should already be in condition for allowance. Further, claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 3, where appropriate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11, as well as claims 6, 8, 10 and 12,

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which depend respectively therefrom, should also be in condition for allowance. Further, as all of pending claims 4-12, 15-18, 37 and 41 are in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that the application should be in condition for allowance.

## II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,971,213 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,220,783 to Ranney (hereinafter "Ranney"). Claims 1-3, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 39 have been cancelled, and thus this rejection is moot.

## III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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